



**Ninety-Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2002**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 1286**

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**Hearing Date:** February 4, 2002

**Committee On:** Transportation and Telecommunications

**Introducer(s):** (Bromm, Byars, Hudkins, Jones)

**Title:** Authorize regulation and registration of wireless carriers

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

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**Vote Results:**

6	Yes	Senators Jones, Baker, Byars, Hudkins, Brown and Bromm
2	No	Senators Robak and Dw. Pedersen
	Present, not voting	
	Absent	

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**Proponents:**

Senator Curt Bromm  
Anne Boyle  
Mike Hybl

**Representing:**

23<sup>rd</sup> District  
Nebraska Public Service Commission  
Great Plains Communications – Nebraska  
Independent Telephone Association

**Opponents:**

Bill Ashburn  
Vance Heffern  
Barry Counts  
Deonne Bruning  
Bob Skochdopole  
Matthew Sopcich  
Larry Ruth

**Representing:**

Alltel  
Alltel  
Sprint  
AT&T Wireless  
Verizon Wireless  
Qwest Wireless  
Western Wireless Corporation

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

The bill sets up a structure to begin regulation of wireless telecommunications carriers by the Public Service Commission (PSC).

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New language would give the PSC regulatory authority over the billing practice of wireless carriers, and states that the PSC shall investigate and resolve complaints concerning billing practices, billing disputes, and subscriber deposits and credits. If a complaint cannot be resolved informally, the commission shall hold a hearing and may order reasonable relief; appeals shall follow the Administrative Procedures Act.

A wireless carrier shall file a registration form and pay a registration fee to the PSC. The form shall contain contact information for the individual at the company for the PSC to contact regarding 1) the Nebraska Universal Service Fund 2) the Telecommunications Relay System 3) E911 and 4) consumer complaints

The bill allows the PSC to administratively fine pursuant to the above sections.

Further, the PSC shall also regulate both the service quality and the customer service provided by wireless carriers that are eligible telecommunications companies (ETC's) receiving funds from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF). The bill amends the NUSF Act at §86-1405, stating that to the extent authorized by federal law, the PSC shall regulate the service quality, customer service, and billing practices of an ETC to the extent that ETC is offering service eligible for funding via the NUSF. To determine compliance, the PSC may require an audit of a telecommunications company.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

The amendment removes the provisions of section 1 of the bill that deal with the regulation of wireless telecommunications providers that do not draw Nebraska Universal Service Funds.

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**Senator Curt Bromm, Chairperson**